

which are indicative of the magnitude of the force that is being applied to the panel member.

Using the same X-Y coordinate system that was previously described in connection with the first embodiment of invention and which is depicted in FIG. 4, the X and Y coordinates of a touched location on the panel member 12c of the embodiment of FIGS. 9 and 10 are:

$$X = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{Z_L}{Z_L + Z_R} \quad Y = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{Z_B}{Z_B + Z_T}$$

where:

X is the position of the touched location along the X axis'

Y is the position of the touched location along the Y axis,

$Z_B$ ,  $Z_T$ ,  $Z_R$ ,  $Z_L$  are respectively the detected forces that are being exerted on the supports 14c at the bottom, top, right side and left side of panel member 12c as viewed in FIG. 9.

While the invention has been described with reference to certain specific embodiments many modifications of the apparatus are possible and it is not intended to limit the invention except as defined in the following claims.

#### PROGRAM LISTING (POSITION.BAS)

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10 SET = 0
20 KEY OFF
30 CLS
40 INPUT "Enter ADC CHANNEL";ADC
50 IF ADC < 769 OR ADC > 797 THEN PRINT "769 <= ADC <= 797": GOTO 40
60 STATUS = ADC - 1
70 CLS
80 LOCATE 24,30: PRINT "Press Esc to exit"
90 LOCATE 5,1
100 FOR CHANNEL = 0 TO 3
110 OUT ADC, CHANNEL * 16: REM select channel
120 X = INP(ADC): REM start a conversion
130 COUNT = INP(ADC + 1) * 256 + INP(ADC): REM read the answer
140 VOLTS = (COUNT - 32768) * 1.52588E-04: REM scale in volts
150 Z(CHANNEL) = COUNT
160 NEXT CHANNEL
170 IF INKEY$ = CHR$(27) THEN END
180 IF SET < 3 THEN GOSUB 340
190 PRINT ZBASE0 - Z(0), ZBASE1 - Z(1), ZBASE2 - Z(2), ZBASE3 - Z(3)
200 Z(0) = ZBASE0 - Z(0)
210 Z(1) = ZBASE1 - Z(1)
220 Z(2) = ZBASE2 - Z(2)
230 Z(3) = ZBASE3 - Z(3)
240 ZSUM = Z(0) + Z(1) + Z(2) + Z(3)
250 IF ZSUM > -80 THEN GOTO 90
260 XVALUE1 = INT (1000 * (.5 - ((Z(0) + Z(1)) / (ZSUM))))
270 XVALUE2 = INT (1000 * (.5 + ((Z(2) + Z(3)) / (ZSUM))))
280 PRINT "X "; (XVALUE1 + XVALUE2) / 2; " ",
290 YVALUE1 = INT (1000 * (.5 - ((Z(0) + Z(3)) / (ZSUM))))
300 YVALUE2 = INT (1000 * (.5 + ((Z(1) + Z(2)) / (ZSUM))))
310 PRINT "Y "; (YVALUE1 + YVALUE2) / 2; " ",
320 PRINT "Z "; INT (ZSUM * .007629);
330 GOTO 90
340 ZBASE0 = Z(0)
350 ZBASE1 = Z(1)
360 ZBASE2 = Z(2)
370 ZBASE3 = Z(3)
380 SET = SET + 1
390 RETURN

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which is generated by touching a different location on the panel, the combination comprising:

a rectangular panel formed of material which exhibits a degree of elasticity,

a plurality of panel member supports which support said panel member at spaced apart regions thereof, the panel member supports being separate from the panel member,

force sensing means positioned upon said panel member for sensing the magnitudes of the forces that are applied to each of said spaced apart supports by said panel member when said panel member is touched at a selected location thereon, wherein said forces are sensed by detecting the deformation of said panel member in the vicinities of each of said supports that is caused by touching of said panel member, and

location analyzing means for determining the location on said panel member that is being touched by comparing the magnitudes of said forces that are applied to said spaced apart supports by said panel member and for generating the one of said signals that corresponds to the determined location.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said panel member has a touch sensitive area with said first and second opposite ends and wherein at least one of said panel member supports is situated at each of said ends and wherein said location analyzing means compares the force which said panel member exerts at said first end of

I claim:

1. In a touch sensitive panel for generating selected ones of any of a plurality of different signals each of

said touch sensitive area with the sum of the forces exerted by said panel member at both ends of said area in order to sense the position of said touched location along said panel.